

AOKI, Hitoshi  
Appl. No. 09/960,517  
February 2, 2004

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2003. Claim 7 has been canceled, and new claims 28-32 added. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-12, 18, 20, and 22-32 are now pending.

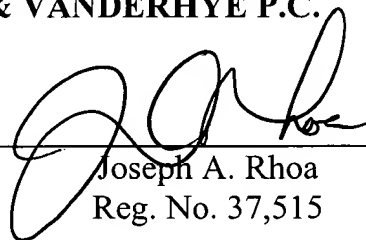
Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 10, 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter. In this respect, allowable claim 7 has been added to claims 1, 20, 23, 26 and 27. Moreover, subject matter of allowable claim 10 has been provided in new claims 29-32, and claim 10 has also been rewritten in independent form. Thus, all claims now include allowable subject matter, so that the application is in condition for allowance.

If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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